

Archaeology
A Non-Renewable
Resource



Preservation by
Education and
Legislation

September, 1999
Editor: Herman Birenbaum
Design & Layout: Susan E. Meyer

P.O. Box 25642, Southgate Station, Sarasota, FL 34277

Chapter of the FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, September 15, 1999, 7:00 p.m.

Jack J. Geldbart Auditorium, Selby Public Library, 1331 1st Street, Sarasota, FL

"The 1999 Excavations at Sepphoris in Israel" Presented by Dr. James F. Strange

Excavations at Sepphoris

Sepphoris – where history and archaeology from the earliest times to the Crusader period can be seen as a result of excavations; where pagan, Jewish, and Christian populations existed peacefully side by side; where digs have unearthed a theater, public baths, several churches and synagogues, major thoroughfares with shops, a large basilica. This was undoubtedly one of Galilee's leading sites in antiquity.

The most sensational archaeological material discovered at Sepphoris in the last decade has been the large number of mosaic floors in private and public domains and in religious and secular settings. The famous Dionysos mosaic features 15 scenes from the life of the god. Some mosaics were hunting scenes and others showed a procession of worshippers bearing gifts. Dr. James Strange has been digging here since 1983 and plans to continue as he did earlier this year.

Throughout his childhood, he developed an interest in the past which began with stories told by his great grandmother. He was fascinated by tales of houses built in the late 1800's with primitive tools and the relationships between American Indians and settlers. With his wide interests, he earned degrees in philosophy, teaching, research and religion. Interest in archaeology began while completing work on a doctorate on the New Testament.

At least once a year, Dr. Strange, 60, organizes trips to Israel. Along with a team of surveyors and bone and coin experts, he opens these archaeological trips to the public. He says it's an opportunity to learn hands-on about history. "It's 3-D reality; you're not getting a linear view of time," he says. "It rounds out history, rather than just reading a book. It has sound, texture and taste."

Throughout his career, Dr. Strange has written and co-

authored several books on archaeology. He hopes that a book written with his daughter titled, *Excavations at Ancient Sepphoris* will make history easier for the average person to understand.

Dr. Strange is Professor and Director of Graduate Studies at the University of South Florida; teaches in the B.A. and M.A. programs in Religious Studies concentrating in Biblical Studies, the Bible and Archaeology, Religion and Society and early Christianity and Judaism.

Since 1969 Dr. Strange has participated in many excavations in Israel and the West Bank as a Field Archaeologist, but since 1983, as the Director of the University of South Florida excavations at Sepphoris, Israel. His specialties in archaeology are theory, texts, stratigraphic analysis, and field direction.

Programs 1999

September 15, 1999, 7:00 p.m. - Time
Sifters Meeting - ~~Dr. James Strange~~

October 20, 1999, Arthur Waltz- San
Agustin Culture of Colombia

November 17, 1999, Linda Eneix-
People of the Maltese Temples

December 7, 1999, Christmas Party-
Philippi Mansion

Coming Soon – "Ancient Island"

No, not a movie, not a television series, not a stage play. "Ancient Island" will be an open-air Museum, Discovery Center and Archaeology Park themed on pre-historic Malta. It promises to provide a field environment for training in the disciplines of archaeology, anthropology, ancient history, architecture and engineering in the U.S. An actual Neolithic-period stone temple will be built in the manner used in pre-historic Malta.

Linda Eneix, president of OTS* and a member of Time Sifters, hopes that our organization will be a good source of volunteers for the operation and activities there once the park is underway. The OTS Foundation is a non-profit 501c3 corporation registered in Florida. Ms. Eneix notes that in 1998, for Archaeology Month in Sarasota, OTS sponsored an exposition at the Opera House bringing a piece of Malta here. The Fair featured a market place, music and food, and lectures. Several professors and two archaeologists from Malta came and talked on the pre-historic period and the Canaanite influence in Malta.

For more information, you can contact Linda Eneix at phone (941) 918-9215, fax (941) 918-0265 or P.O. Box 17166, Sarasota, FL 34276.

* When asked what OTS meant, Ms. Eneix replied, "Since Malta has so many old temples, Old Temples in Stone seemed appropriate."

Rephrased and edited from the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*, August 28, 1999.

New Finds

Italy— On one of the major roads to Rome, the Via Triomfale, the tomb of an Etruscan woman was found. It dated back to the legendary time of the Seven Kings of Rome, three of whom were reportedly Etruscan. Although in terms of treasure there was little, historically, it is invaluable.

Corona, Italy— An Etruscan text having to do with the buying and selling of land has added many new words to what is now known of the language. These writings may help decipher the still-mysterious language of the Etruscans.

From the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*, July 9, 1999.

A Weekend In Ruins

A Symposium on the Archaeology of the Ancient Americas will be held on October 15-17, 1999, at the Orlando Museum of Art, 2416 N. Mills Avenue, Orlando, FL 32803. It will be a casual weekend symposium with discussion and interaction between audience and scholars. The schedule of events includes a keynote presentation on Friday evening, October 15 by David Pendergast, Vice President of Collection, Royal Ontario Museum. On Saturday, October 16, there will be Dig-In sessions with noted scholars from Florida and Canada including Jerald Milanich (Florida archaeology), Michael Moseley (Peruvian archaeology), Arlen and Diane Chase (Maya archaeology), and Elizabeth Graham (Spanish contact period). Sunday's activities will include a special tour of the Art of the Ancient Americas exhibition including special objects on display only for the weekend of the symposium, followed by a coffee social where attendees may talk casually with scholars by the Orlando Museum of Art, Central Florida Society of the Archaeological Institute of America and the Central Florida Anthropological Society through a grant from the Florida Humanities Council. For more information call Andrea S. Kalis, Curator of Ancient Americas and African Art, Orlando Museum of Art, (401) 896-4231, ext. 259, or e-mail akalis@omart.org.

Copied from the Florida Archaeological Council newsletter, June 1999.

Aucilla Mammoth Skeleton Now On Exhibit

It might be worth a special trip to visit the Florida Museum of Natural History's new exhibition at Powell Hall, southwestern part of the University of Florida campus in Gainesville. The first thing you will see in the central gallery is one of the largest mammoths in North America. This magnificent skeleton of a mature male Columbian Mammoth from the Aucilla River stands over 14 feet tall. In life it weighed about 10 metric tons. This is also one of the most complete specimens ever collected. Ninety percent of the bones are real including the breast-bones. This is the only real mammoth skeleton exhibited south of the Smithsonian Institution. Collagen taken from the thighbone yielded a radiocarbon date of about 16,000 years old.

This specimen was collected in 1968 and was featured in the February 1969 issue of the *Natural Geographic*. Last year, after three decades on the shelves, the bones were shipped to Prehistoric Animal Structures, a company in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. The company specializes in mounting dinosaur skeletons. They delivered it and reassembled it in Florida this past year.

Edited from the Aucilla River Times, May, 1999.

Egyptian Gold Rush?

A 2,900-year-old papyrus map has led to as much as \$16 billion in untapped gold in Egypt's Eastern Desert. Although the deposits are of low grade, modern technology will help make mining worthwhile.

The map was found at Luxor in 1820 and is now in a museum in Turin, Italy. It shows the locations of the mines of the pharaohs. Sixteen have been identified, but the map indicates there may be as many as 104 others.

From *Archaeology*, May/June 1999.

Borneo Cave Art

Two groups of caves decorated with hundreds of hand stencils have been discovered in northeastern Borneo. Based on stylistic comparisons with cave paintings nearby, the art may be between 8,000 and 20,000 years old. The caves have three panels of hand stencils in a seemingly purposeful arrangement. Alternating left and right hands are arranged in a fan-like design. Some of the hands contain internal lines or dots found in Australian aboriginal rock art. Colors used were black with others ranging from brown-black to red. On the ceiling in one area are three images of horned animals.

From *Archaeology*, May/June 1999.

16th Annual Fossil Fair

October 2 & 3, 1999

Sponsor

Bone Valley Fossil Society

Location

Lake Mirror Center

800 East Main St., Lakeland, FL

Program

"Year of the Turtle"

Information

Ed Holman, 2704 Dixie Rd.,
Lakeland, FL 33801-2902
(941) 665-3426

Unconquered People

Florida's Seminole and Miccosukee Indians

In this book, Brent Weisman explores Seminole and Miccosukee culture through information provided by archaeology, ethnography, historical documents, and the words of the Indians themselves. He explains when and how their culture was formed and how it has withstood historical challenges and survives in the face of pressures from the modern world.

Weisman adds a travel guide to publicly accessible sites throughout the state that tell of the unique and deep connection between Seminole history and the geography of Florida.

For both students and general readers, Weisman combines scholarship from several disciplines with the perspectives of the Seminoles themselves into an exciting history of Florida's enduring Native Americans.

From University Press of Florida, Fall 1999.

Cataract Operations 2,000 Years Ago?

When archaeologists excavated a 2,000 year old Celtic tomb near Colchester, England, they were surprised to find among the items of an apparently elite person, a remarkably sophisticated set of surgical instruments. The kit suggests that the owner practiced a wide variety of surgical techniques, including perhaps, operations on tonsils, hemorrhoids, and even cataracts.

The kit dates from the early days of Roman occupation and resembles some Roman medical instruments. However, they were made of iron as most native tools were made then while Roman instruments were usually bronze.

Scalpels, blunt and sharp hooks, forceps, needles, probes and a small saw gave clues as to their use. A first century writer has described a tonsillectomy operation with a scalpel and sharp hook. Cataracts were removed with a needle which, although very crudely done, allowed light to come through for some degree of vision. These instruments were unique because they were one of the earliest sets of surgical tools found anywhere in the Roman world.

Condensed from *Discover*, March 1998.

Membership

Individual- \$15 Student- \$10

Family- \$25 Sustaining-\$35

Make checks payable to Time Sifters, Inc. and mail to: Time Sifters, Inc., P.O. Box 25642, Southgate Station, Sarasota, FL 34277, or pay at meetings. All memberships are renewable on January 1.

Calendar

September 8, 1999, 7:00 p.m.-

Time Sifters Board Meeting

701 Plaza De Santo Domingo

September 15, 1999, 7:00 p.m.-

Time Sifters Meeting

Dr. Strange-1999 Excavations at

Sepphoris in Israel

October 2 and 3, 1999, Bone Valley

Fossil Fair

October 15-17, 1999, Symposium,

Orlando Museum of Art

Board of Directors

President

Karen Rodemaker 925-0059

1st Vice President & Membership

Bill Korp 966-2567

2nd Vice President & Programs

Louise Birenbaum 358-8620

Recording Secretary

Isabel Rauch 957-1313

Treasurer

Joel Taylor 954-0140

Directors

Herman Birenbaum

Bonnie Jean Christensen

Milton Rauch

Susan White

Joe Booth- Honorary

Marion Almy- Ex-Officio

Meet And Eat

Meet for dinner at 5:15 p.m. before Time Sifters meeting at the Two Senoritas, 1355 Main Street. Wear your name tag!!

Time Sifters, Inc.

P O Box 25642

Southgate Station

Sarasota FL 34277
